Sri Parashuram kothi, Nirmand, Himachal Pradesh

Info is given under following headings:

Location, how to get there, speciality of this temple, history and legends, architecture, main deity and subdeities, daily rituals and poojas and their charges, special poojas and their charges, festivals celebrated, facilities available for devotees such as accommodation, do's and don'ts, nearby temples, nearby hotels, nearby tourist spots, donation info with contact phone number, any other info...etc

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AI Overview

The **Sri Parashuram Kothi** in Nirmand, Himachal Pradesh, is **a spectacular, palace-like temple complex that anchors the state's oldest heritage village**. It features ancient wood-and-stone *kath-kuni* architecture, an incredibly rare 6th-century Vishnu idol, and a mythical collection of Parashurama's artifacts only unveiled during the rare Bhunda festival.

Key Highlights

- **Ancient Architecture:** The complex is a multi-layered structure of wood and stone, featuring intricate artwork and stone carvings dating from the 6th to 14th centuries.
- **The Deity:** Houses a rare three-headed idol of Parashurama and a stone statue of Lord Vishnu dating back to the 6th or 7th century, which is believed to be the oldest Vishnu idol in Himachal Pradesh.
- **The Artifacts:** The temple is home to the mythical axe of Parashurama, along with his personal armor and vestments. These are kept in a concealed area and only displayed publicly during the 12-yearly *Bhunda* festival.
- **Mythological Connection:** Nirmand is steeped in ancient lore. Just 500 meters from the Kothi is the temple of Goddess Ambika (believed to be Parashurama's mother, Renuka, in her reincarnated form).

Location & Details

- **Location:** Nirmand is located on the terraces above the left bank of the Sutlej River in the Kullu district, directly across from Rampur Bushahr.
- **Elevation:** Situated at an altitude of approximately 1,414 meters (4,600+ feet).
- **Vibe:** A serene, spiritual labyrinth of narrow cobblestone streets, steeped in continuous ritual life and centuries-old traditions.

Read more about the history and structural details on Wikipedia's Nirmand Page or view the site's unique indigenous design through the Wikimedia Commons Gallery.

AI responses may include mistakes.

Ref: Google Gemini

Location

Sri Parashuram Kothi (Temple) is located in **Nirmand**, an ancient and culturally rich village in the Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh, India. Perched at an altitude of approximately 1,450 meters (4,757 feet) above sea level in the picturesque Sutlej Valley, Nirmand is often referred to as the *"Chhoti Kashi"* or *"Kashi of the Himalayas"* due to its profound religious significance and concentration of historical temples.

How to Get There

- **By Air:** The nearest airport is **Jubbarhatti Airport** in Shimla, located about 160 km away. Alternatively, Bhuntar Airport near Kullu is around 125 km away via different mountain routes.
- **By Train:** The closest railway connection is the historic narrow-gauge station at **Shimla** (approx. 140–150 km). For major broad-gauge trains, Chandigarh Railway Station (approx. 260 km) serves as the primary hub.
- **By Road:** Nirmand is well-connected by road networks. It lies roughly 17 km across the river from the prominent town of **Rampur Bushahr** (on the Hindustan-Tibet Road/NH-5). Regular local buses, shared vehicles, and private taxis ply frequently between Rampur and Nirmand. From Shimla, the road distance is approximately 140–150 km northeast.

Speciality of This Temple

Unlike typical North Indian shrines, the Parashuram Kothi stands out as a unique amalgam of a **sacred citadel, treasury, and community fortress**. It occupies the exact pivotal center of Nirmand village—designed such that almost all traditional streets and lanes logically converge toward its gates. Historians and planners frequently cite Nirmand as a "Harappan survivor" because its grid layout features the Parashuram Kothi as an elevated, defensive citadel, relying on surrounding fresh-water springs for sustenance.

History and Legends

- **Mythological Origins:** According to deeply rooted local folklore and oral tradition, the temple was established by **Lord Parashuram** (the sixth avatar of Lord Vishnu). Seeking penance after completing his epic tasks and following the ultimate command regarding his mother, Renuka, he chose this secluded Himalayan enclave to settle. To preserve Vedic knowledge, he is said to have established an *Agrahara* (scholarly colony) by settling 500 Brahmins, 60 distinct artisans, and 120 agrarian families here.
- **Historical Evidence:** The antiquarian nature of the site is corroborated by the famous **Nirmand Copper Plate Land Grant** (preserved closely by the affiliated Ambika Devi management). Issued by the regional ruler *Mahasamanta Samudrasena* in the 7th century CE, this plate officially records state endowments to Brahmins learned in the Atharvaveda, confirming the site's status as a formidable epicenter of Brahmanical learning for well over 1,300 years.

Architecture

The structure is a textbook masterpiece of traditional **Pahari (Vernacular Himalayan) Architecture**, heavily relying on the indigenous Kath-Kuni style (interlocking thick wooden beams and dry stone masonry without mortar).

- **Layout:** It is a double-storeyed, fortress-like structure featuring a gabled slate roof designed to withstand heavy mountain rains and snow. The complex encloses a small, secured central courtyard accessible via a sole entrance on the western face.
- **Artistry:** The exterior balconies, overhanging eaves, and heavy wooden pillars boast intricate, masterfully preserved relief carvings depicting vivid stories from Hindu Puranas and epics.
- **The Treasury:** The northern wing functions as an ancient storehouse that safely archives invaluable antiquities, historical inscriptions, and ancient metal sculptures.

Main Deity and Subdeities

- **Main Deity:** The principal icon is a highly venerated, marvelous **three-headed statue of Lord Parashuram**. Stylistic and historical accounts note that this magnificent icon features a brilliant diamond embedded in the center of the forehead, traditionally believed to have been gifted by a queen (*Rani Agartala*) of Kashmir around 900 AD. At the immediate entrance, an archaic standing stone idol of Lord Vishnu (dated stylistically to the 6th or 7th century CE) guards the gateway.
- **Subdeities and Associated Shrines:** The Kothi operates in close spiritual tandem with the nearby **Ambika Devi Temple** (housing a historic black-stone idol of Durga covered in gold leaf) and the miniature stone shrines dedicated to **Lord Shiva** (such as Dakshineshwar/Kapileshvara Mahadev) and **Chandi Devi**.

Daily Rituals, Poojas, and Charges

The daily worship follows strict, conservative local Himachali traditions managed by traditional hereditary Brahmin priests.

- **Rituals:** Worship includes the morning *Abhishek* (ritual bathing of representative symbols/idols), traditional offering of local grains and flora, and morning/evening *Aarti* accompanied by indigenous musical instruments (such as the *Karnal* and *Narsingha* horns).
- **Charges:** Like many ancient, clan-based fortress temples in the interior regions of Kullu, there is **no commercialized or fixed menu card for pooja charges**. Standard prayers, simple *archana*, or viewing (*Darshan*) do not carry any fees. Devotees may make voluntary free-will offerings (*Dakshina*) directly into the hundi or to the officiating priest.

Special Poojas and Charges

Special family protection poojas or commemorative ancestry rituals can be arranged through the village elders and priests. Because these involve the arrangement of specific local ingredients, traditional musicians, and collective community prayers, the costs are variable

and must be organized directly on-site with the local temple committee (*Panchayat/Mandir Samiti*).

Festivals Celebrated

- **The Bhunda Festival:** This is Nirmand's most legendary event. Often compared to the Kumbh Mela of the hills, Bhunda is held once every 12 years (or when specific astrological alignments and community resources allow). It involves high-stakes traditional rituals, elaborate processions of the village deities, and a historic, dramatic rope-sliding ceremony performed by a specific clan (*Beda* community).
- **Budhi Diwali:** Celebrated with immense fervor exactly one month after the main national Diwali. It features traditional night-long bonfires, the reenactment of ancient legends through folklore singing, and vibrant community line-dancing (*Nati*).

Facilities Available for Devotees

- **Accommodation:** Within the core historical village structure, standard commercial hotel options are practically non-existent to preserve the site's heritage character. However, traditional pilgrims and wandering ascetics (*Sadhus*) are accommodated in the large community compounds and shelters (*Sarai/Dharamshala*) managed by the village collective. For modern travelers, simple homestays have begun emerging in the outskirts of Nirmand.
- **Food:** Basic traditional eateries and tea stalls operate in the village market near the convergence lanes.

Do’s and Don'ts

- **Dress Code:** Dress modestly and conservatively. Shoulders and knees must remain fully covered out of respect for local traditions.
- **Leather Items:** Pure leather items (including belts, wallets, and bags) are strictly forbidden inside the inner courtyard and sanctum areas.
- **Photography:** While photography of the external wooden facades is widely admired, taking photographs inside the inner rooms, close-ups of the primary deities, or inside the sacred treasury wing is strictly prohibited. Always look for signage or ask the priests before aiming a camera.
- **Sanctity:** Respect the quietude of the village layout and avoid touching sacred wooden door-frames or pillars indiscriminately.

Nearby Temples

1. **Ambika Devi Temple:** Situated just down a magnificent flight of wide stone steps from the Kothi; features a highly revered ancient form of the Goddess.
2. **Dakshineshwar Mahadev Temple:** An ancient stone-shikhara style temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, housing historic carvings.
3. **Chandi Devi Temple:** Located near the northeast entrance of the village boundary.
4. **Sri Dattatreya Temple (Dattanagar):** Located across the valley floor along the main highway, dedicated to the sage Dattatreya.

Nearby Hotels

For comprehensive amenities, star-category stays, or reliable modern hotel rooms, travelers typically look to **Rampur Bushahr** (17 km away).

- *The Bushehar Regency* (HPTDC running property in Rampur)
- Various private deluxe hotels and guest houses lining the NH-5 corridor in Rampur.
- For a rustic experience closer to nature, eco-lodges and homestays are available further up in **Jaon** or **Baga Sarahan**.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- **Shrikhand Mahadev Trek:** Nirmand serves as the base gateway for this famous, highly challenging holy pilgrimage trek. The actual foot-trek begins from **Jaon Village** (a short drive from Nirmand) leading up toward the massive 75-foot natural rock Shiva Lingam at an altitude of over 5,000 meters.
- **Baga Sarahan:** A stunning, untouched high-altitude alpine meadow surrounded by dense ringlets of pine and deodar forests, ideal for quiet retreats.
- **Jalori Pass & Bashleo Pass:** Famous mountain passes located deeper in the Inner Seraj region, offering excellent trekking trails, panoramic vistas of the snow-clad peaks, and access toward the Tirthan Valley.

Donation Info and Contact Contact Phone Number

The temple complex and its heritage assets are looked after by a localized local committee working alongside the regional administration to protect the village's cultural property.

- **Contact Information:** Official digital payment portals or centralized hotlines do not exist for this remote heritage site. For authentic donation procedures, obtaining receipts for religious contributions, or scheduling specific group visits, individuals must coordinate directly with the **Local Temple Pujari / Pradhan of the Mandir Samiti** upon arrival, or request guidance via the *Tehsildar Office / Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) of Nirmand, Kullu District*, who oversees regional heritage conservation.

Any Other Info

If you enjoy ancient architectural beauty, historical epigraphy, or studying the preservation of medieval Himalayan structures, a quiet walking tour through Nirmand is exceptionally rewarding. It is highly recommended to visit during the spring or autumn months (September to November) when the weather is clear, and the orchards surrounding the village are laden with local apricots, plums, and apples.

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Ref: GrokAI

Sri Parashuram Kothi (Parashuram Temple / Kothi), Nirmand, Himachal Pradesh is a significant ancient temple complex in the historic village of Nirmand (also spelled Nirmund/Nermand), known as one of the largest and oldest villages in Himachal Pradesh, often called the "Kashi of the Himalayas" due to its many shrines.

Location

Nirmand village is in the Seraj (Outer Seraj) region of Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh. It lies on terraces above the left (north) bank of the Sutlej River, overlooking the Sutlej valley, opposite Rampur Bushahr. The temple is centrally located within the village. PIN: 172023. Altitude: approx. 1,350–1,500 meters.

How to Get There

- **By Road**: Nirmand is about 17–19 km from Rampur Bushahr (a major market town). Rampur is well-connected by road to Shimla (approx. 150 km) and other parts of Himachal. Public and private buses/taxis are available from Rampur to Nirmand.
- **Nearest Airport**: Bhuntar (Kullu-Manali) Airport, around 100+ km away.
- **Nearest Railway**: Shimla (narrow gauge), about 140–150 km away.
- Local transport: Taxis, shared jeeps, or buses from Rampur. The village is accessible but involves hilly roads.

Speciality of this Temple

It is a rare living heritage site blending mythology, ancient architecture, and unique rituals. The main temple (Kothi) is believed to mark the site of Parashuram's penance. The sanctum is mostly closed and opens only during the grand Bhunda festival (every ~12 years), when the main idol and artifacts (including Parashuram's axe and belongings) are taken out. It features one of the oldest Vishnu idols in the region (6th–7th century) at the entrance. Nirmand as a whole is a hub of Brahminical traditions, wooden architecture, and Vedic ritual remnants.

History and Legends

- **Legend**: Linked to Parashuram (sixth avatar of Vishnu). After beheading his mother Renuka on his father Jamadagni's orders, he carried her headless body ("Nir-Mund" = without head), leading to the name Nirmand. He performed penance here with a Nar Megh Yajna (or Purush Megha Yajna). He is said to have settled 500 Brahmins, artisans, and farmers after conflicts/destruction of earlier civilizations.
- **Historical**: Copper plate grants from ~7th century CE mention land endowments to Brahmins. Temple elements date from 6th–14th centuries. Associated with local kings and even a Queen of Kashmir who gifted the main idol.

Architecture

Traditional Himachali/Pahari style with *kath-kuni* (interlocking timber and stone/rubble) construction. Features a pent-roof (or gabled slate roof), intricate wood carvings on façade, wooden superstructure on stone plinth, and detailed panels depicting deities and motifs. Layers of construction from 8th–14th centuries. Includes a small elegant Shiva temple nearby and a baoli (stepwell) with ancient carvings.

Main Deity and Subdeities

- **Main Deity**: Lord Parashuram (three-faced idol, central face with a once-embedded diamond; installed by a Kashmiri queen). A golden vessel from King Samudrasen of Spiti is also kept here.
- **Subdeities/Associated**: Vishnu (ancient stone idol at entrance), Shiva (small temple outside), Ambika Devi (prominent nearby temple), and other local deities like Dakshineshwar Mahadev.

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Daily Rituals and Poojas and Their Charges

Specific current charges are not widely published online (typical for many remote Himachal temples). Standard *aarti*, *bhog*, and basic *puja* are performed. Devotees can offer prayers; contact the temple/pujari or local administration for exact timings and fees (often nominal or donation-based). The main sanctum remains mostly closed.

Special Poojas and Their Charges

Special rituals are more prominent during festivals. No standard public rates found; likely handled via donation or direct arrangement with priests. Inquire locally.

Festivals Celebrated

- **Bhunda Festival** (or Bhunda Mahayagya): Every ~12 years — major event with processions, rope descent ritual (symbolic remnant of ancient sacrifices), and opening of the sanctum. Draws large crowds.
- **Budhi Diwali** ("Old Diwali"): Celebrated about a month after main Diwali; linked to Vedic rituals like Indra-Vritra battle reenactment.
- Other: Navaratri, Maha Shivaratri, Dussehra with devta processions; local fairs (*melas*) at temples.

Facilities Available for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

- Basic homestays and guesthouses in the village.
- Small PWD rest house.
- Limited facilities overall — suitable for day visits or short stays. Nearby Rampur Bushahr offers better hotels and amenities.

Do's and Don'ts
- Respect the sacred nature: Remove shoes, maintain silence in sanctum areas, dress modestly.
- Photography may be restricted inside; follow local rules.
- Do not disturb artifacts or closed areas.
- Follow eco-friendly practices in this heritage village.

Nearby Temples
- Ambika Devi Temple (major goddess shrine).
- Dakshineshwar Mahadev (Shiva).
- Small Shiva temple near Kothi.
- Other village shrines and Deo Dhank cave.

Nearby Hotels

Rampur Bushahr (17–19 km) has more options: government guesthouses, private hotels, and lodges. In Nirmand: limited homestays.

Nearby Tourist Spots

- Sutlej River views and valley.
- Shrikhand Mahadev trek (popular high-altitude pilgrimage from nearby Jaon village).
- Rampur Bushahr town and its attractions.
- Other Seraj region villages and temples.

Donation Info with Contact Phone Number

Donations/support for maintenance can be made through the temple trust or local BDO (Block Development Officer) Nirmand. Specific phone numbers are not prominently listed in public sources. Try:
- Local inquiry via Himachal Tourism or Kullu district administration.
- Search for "Nirmand Temple Committee" or contact via Rampur Bushahr offices.

For updates, check Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) or local panchayat.

Any Other Info
- The village has strong Brahmin traditions and living *devta* culture (deities in palanquins with oracles).
- Artifacts like Parashuram's axe are displayed only during Bhunda.
- It is a peaceful, culturally rich spot ideal for heritage enthusiasts rather than mass tourism.
- Respect local customs as it is a living sacred village.

For the latest details (pooja timings, charges, festival dates, contacts), it is best to contact the Kullu district tourism office, local panchayat, or visit during a planned trip. Information can change, especially for remote sites. Safe travels!

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Ref: ChatGpt

Sri Parashuram Kothi, Nirmand, Himachal Pradesh

Sri Parashuram Kothi is one of the most revered ancient temples dedicated to **Lord Parashurama**, the sixth incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Located in the historic village of **Nirmand** in Himachal Pradesh, it is regarded as one of the most important centers of Parashurama worship in India.

1. **Location**

Temple Name: Sri Parashuram Kothi (Parashurama Temple)

Village: Nirmand

Tehsil: Nirmand

District: Kullu, Himachal Pradesh

State: Himachal Pradesh, India

Approximate Altitude: About 1,500–1,600 meters above sea level

Nirmand is often called the **"Kashi of Himachal Pradesh"** because of its large number of ancient temples and rich spiritual heritage.

2. **How to Get There**

By Air

- Nearest Airport: **Bhuntar Airport (Kullu)**
- Distance: Approximately 150 km.

By Rail

- Nearest Broad-Gauge Railway Station:
    - Chandigarh (around 220 km)
    - Kalka (around 210 km)

By Road

- Regular buses operate from:
    - Shimla
    - Rampur Bushahr
    - Kullu
    - Chandigarh
- Nirmand is well connected by mountain roads.

From Rampur

- Distance: Approximately 17–20 km.

From Kullu

- Distance: Approximately 95–100 km.

3. **Speciality of the Temple**

- **One of India's Important Parashurama Shrines**
- Very few major temples in India are exclusively dedicated to Lord Parashurama. Nirmand's Parashuram Kothi is among the most important.
- Ancient Wooden Temple Architecture
- The temple is famous for its traditional Himachali wooden craftsmanship.
- Spiritual and Historical Importance
- The shrine has been a center of worship for centuries and attracts devotees from Himachal Pradesh and neighboring states.
- Link with Sage Parashurama
- Local traditions firmly believe that Lord Parashurama performed penance here and blessed the region.
- Cultural Heritage Monument
- The temple is considered an important heritage monument of Himachal Pradesh.

4. **History and Legends**

- Ancient Origins
- The exact date of construction is not known.
- Historians believe that the temple may be several centuries old and has undergone periodic renovations while preserving its original style.

Legend of Lord Parashurama

According to local tradition:/

- Lord Parashurama visited this region during his pilgrimages.
- He performed severe austerities here.
- The place became sanctified by his presence.
- The villagers established a shrine in his honor.

Nirmand and the Pandavas

Local folklore associates Nirmand with the Mahabharata period.

Some traditions state that the Pandavas visited this area during their exile and contributed to the spiritual significance of the region.

5. **Architecture**

The temple is a fine example of the famous **Kath-Kuni style** of Himachal Pradesh.

Architectural Features

- Stone and timber construction.
- Multi-tiered sloping roofs.
- Intricately carved wooden doors.
- Beautiful wooden pillars.
- Traditional Himachali temple design.
- Decorative carvings depicting deities and mythological motifs.

Temple Complex

The complex contains:

- Main sanctum
- Assembly areas
- Courtyard
- Structures used during festivals and community gatherings

The craftsmanship reflects centuries-old Himalayan building traditions.

6. **Main Deity and Sub-Deities**
Main Deity

Lord Parashurama

- Sixth Avatar of Lord Vishnu.
- Depicted carrying the divine axe (Parashu).

Sub-Deities

Various local deities and guardian deities are worshipped in the temple complex and nearby shrines, including forms of:

- Lord Shiva
- Lord Vishnu
- Village deities (Gram Devatas)
- Regional Himalayan deities

The exact arrangement may vary due to local traditions.

7. **Daily Rituals and Poojas**

Typical daily worship includes:

Morning

- Temple opening
- Nirmalya removal
- Abhisheka
- Alankara
- Archana
- Aarti

Afternoon

- Naivedya offering
- Special prayers

Evening

- Deepa Aarti
- Bhajans and devotional worship

8. **Pooja Charges**

Unlike many large temple trusts, publicly available and regularly updated pooja-rate lists are generally not available online.

Devotees can usually arrange:

- Archana
- Special prayers
- Annadanam contributions
- Festival sponsorships

Charges may vary.

It is advisable to contact the temple management directly before planning a visit.

9. **Special Poojas**

During important occasions devotees sponsor:

- Vishnu-related rituals
- Parashurama Jayanti celebrations
- Community yajnas
- Special homas
- Sankalpa poojas

Charges depend on the scale of the ritual.

10. **Festivals Celebrated**
Parashurama Jayanti

The most important festival.

Highlights include:

- Special abhishekas
- Vedic chanting
- Processions
- Cultural programs
- Community feasts

Baisakhi

Celebrated with great enthusiasm.

Local Devata Festivals

Traditional Himalayan deity processions attract large crowds.

Dussehra

Observed according to local customs.

Other Hindu Festivals

- Navaratri
- Diwali
- Janmashtami
- Makar Sankranti

11. **Facilities Available for Devotees**

Temple Facilities

- Drinking water
- Resting areas
- Open courtyard
- Festival arrangements

Accommodation

The temple itself generally does not operate large guest houses.

Visitors usually stay in:

- Nirmand town lodges
- Guest houses
- Homestays

- Hotels in Rampur and nearby areas

12. **Do's and Don'ts**

Do's

✓ Dress modestly.

✓ Remove footwear before entering.

✓ Respect local traditions.

✓ Maintain silence inside the sanctum.

✓ Seek permission before photographing interiors.

✓ Participate respectfully in rituals.

Don'ts

✗ Do not litter.

✗ Do not consume alcohol or tobacco near the temple.

✗ Do not touch sacred objects without permission.

✗ Do not disturb ongoing rituals.

✗ Avoid loud conversations.

13. **Nearby Temples**

- Ambika Mata Temple, Nirmand

  One of the oldest temples in the region.

- Dakshin Mahadev Temple

  Ancient Shiva shrine.

- Lakshmi Narayan Temple

  Historic Vaishnava temple.

- Visheshwar Mahadev Temple

  Popular among local devotees.

- Bhootnath and other village deity temples

Found throughout Nirmand and nearby villages.

14. **Nearby Hotels**

In Nirmand

- Local guest houses
- Homestays
- Small lodges

In Rampur Bushahr

- Hotel Satluj View
- Hotel Bushahr Regency
- Hotel Amar Palace
- Various HPTDC and private accommodations

In Kullu

Many budget and deluxe hotels are available.

15. **Nearby Tourist Spots**

- Nirmand Heritage Village

  Known for ancient temples and traditional architecture.

- Rampur Bushahr

  Historic princely town.

- Tattapani

  Famous hot water springs.

- Jalori Pass

  Popular mountain pass with scenic views.

- Serolsar Lake

  Sacred high-altitude lake.

- Great Himalayan Region

  Excellent for nature lovers and trekkers.

- Sutlej Valley

  Offers beautiful Himalayan landscapes.

16. **Donation Information:** Donations may be offered:

- Directly at the temple office.
- During festivals.
- Through temple donation boxes.
- For poojas, maintenance, and community activities.

Contact Information: Reliable public information on dedicated online donation facilities and official bank details is presently limited.

For updated information, devotees may contact:

Temple Committee / Local Temple Administration, Nirmand

Since phone numbers occasionally change, it is advisable to obtain the latest contact details through:

- Nirmand Panchayat Office
- Kullu District Administration
- Himachal Pradesh Tourism offices

before making any donation arrangements.

17. **Interesting Facts**

- Nirmand is called the "Kashi of Himachal Pradesh"
- Because of its concentration of ancient temples and sacred traditions.
- Rare Temple of Lord Parashurama
- Temples exclusively dedicated to Lord Parashurama are uncommon in India, making this shrine particularly significant.
- Heritage Architecture
- The temple preserves the famous Kath-Kuni building style that has withstood Himalayan weather for centuries.
- Living Tradition
- Unlike many archaeological monuments, Parashuram Kothi remains an active center of worship and local cultural life.

Why Every Hindu Should Know About Sri Parashuram Kothi

Sri Parashuram Kothi is not merely an ancient temple but a living reminder of the ideals represented by Lord Parashurama—courage, discipline, righteousness, devotion to dharma, and respect for spiritual knowledge. Nestled amidst the Himalayas, this sacred shrine preserves centuries of faith, architecture, folklore, and religious traditions, making it one of the most important Parashurama pilgrimage centers in India.

Om Sri Parashuramaya Namah. 🙏

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Ref: kalyangeetha.wordpress.com

Sri Parashuram Kothi, Nirmand

Sri Parshuram Kothi, Nirmand, Himachal Pradesh 172023 Parshuram Temple at Nirmand, the largest village in Himachal Pradesh, is around 19 km from Rampur. The temple is dedicated to the Parashurama avatar of Vishnu. The word 'Nirmand' is regarded as a derivative of 'Nir – mund', or without a head. For some still unexplainable reason, Nirmand has also been a major centre of the bhunda, a ritual of 'human sacrifice' that follows a cycle of approximately 12 years. Today a goat is used instead, though local fascination with the heady tradition has not lessened.

Nirmand is a very important place from the interiors of Himachal. It is known by this name because it at this very place that Parshuram beheaded his mother Mata Renuka on the orders of his father. It is 200 km away from Shimla. The place is adorned by several temples. In a village near the last mountain there is a Parshuram temple, located centrally. The temple is built with carved wood and follows the Kangra architecture style.

The temple boasts of several sections like Sabha Mandap (Outer pandal), Antaral (Inner sanctum) and Garbhagriha (Innermost sanctum). The temple has a surrounding wall as well. The idol is made of platinum. It is believed to have been adorned by diamonds and other

precious stones. However, it was stolen but found again. But now it was without the jewellery. The temple also has idols of Uma-Maheshwar and Shri Vishnu-Lakshmi.

Overlooking the Sutlej valley in the lesser-known Kullu district, This village has been in existence since the early Vedic period, making it one of the oldest rural settlements in India. A number of ancient stone and wooden temples dating back to the 6th and the 7th centuries A.D. speak of Nirmand's religious and historical importance. For this reason it is often called the "Kashi of the Himalayas."

A solid wooden door leads into a grassy compound, known as Parshuram kothi, with the main shrine towards the end and store rooms to the left.

There are some carvings on the compound walls, relief works on its wooden balconies, and stone images of deities set outside the shrine, but the temple is otherwise remarkably austere.To the right of the entrance is a small hollow, called the Pandava Gufa. It is believed that the Pandava brothers and their wife spent part of the last year of their exile here.

The main murti of the temple is taken out only during the Bhunda festival, was gifted by a king of Kashmir in 900 AD. The murti of Parashurama has three heads, the central one with a diamond in its forehead. It is kept in a store room along with treasures such as a 16 kg axe and jewelry.Outside the pent roof, two storied compound there is a smaller shrine to Bhairava, leaning against the walls of the larger temple.

It is during the Bhunda festival that the Parshuram Bhandar is opened and the artistic wealth of the temple is displayed to the public. The prized objects include a copper plate dating to the 6th-7th century A.D. and the famous brass bust of Sujanu Devi. The inscription on the bust dates it to 1026 AD. Many stone sculptures dating back to the 6th-7th century have also been discovered from the bhandar. Two of them, a stone sculpture and a stone pillar, are displayed in the temple courtyard.

Narrow streets – some paved with concrete, some with flagstones, some with tarmac and many still of dusty mud – wind their way through the few acres that form the core of this village that may well have been inhabited for a millennium-and-a-half.

The path to the kothi of Parshurama slices through the heart of the village. The kothi, 'residence and temple' of Parshurama is a remarkable structure that has a pent-roof and age-old lines of wood and intricate carvings that make its façade. Here lies the mythical axe of Parshurama and several other items of dress and armour that are attributed to him – and are only taken out of their cave at the time of the "bhunda" ritual. Just outside this precinct is a tiny – but remarkably elegant – temple of Shiva that is barely the height of a child, but has perfectly classical proportions..

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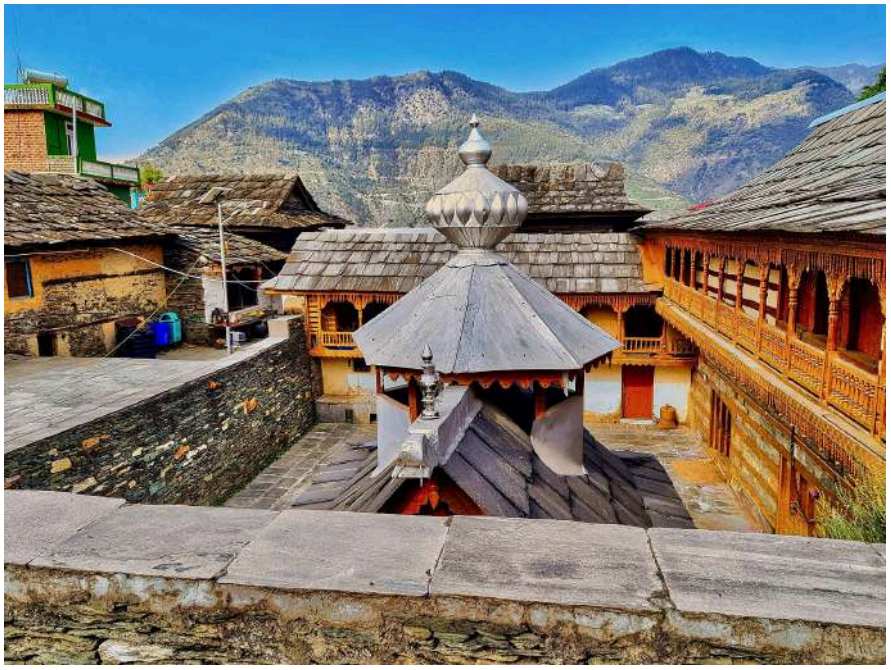
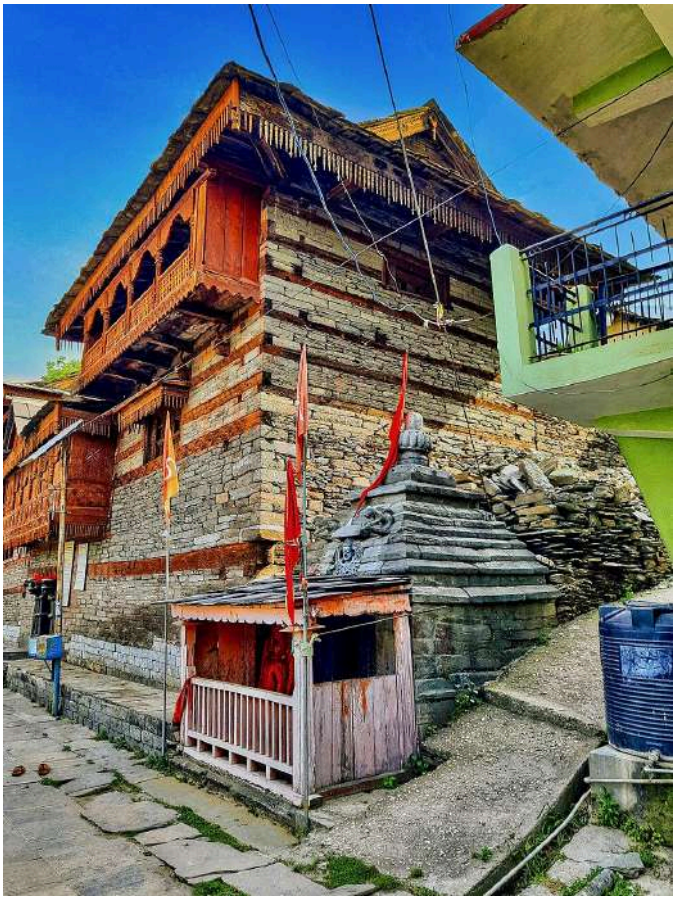
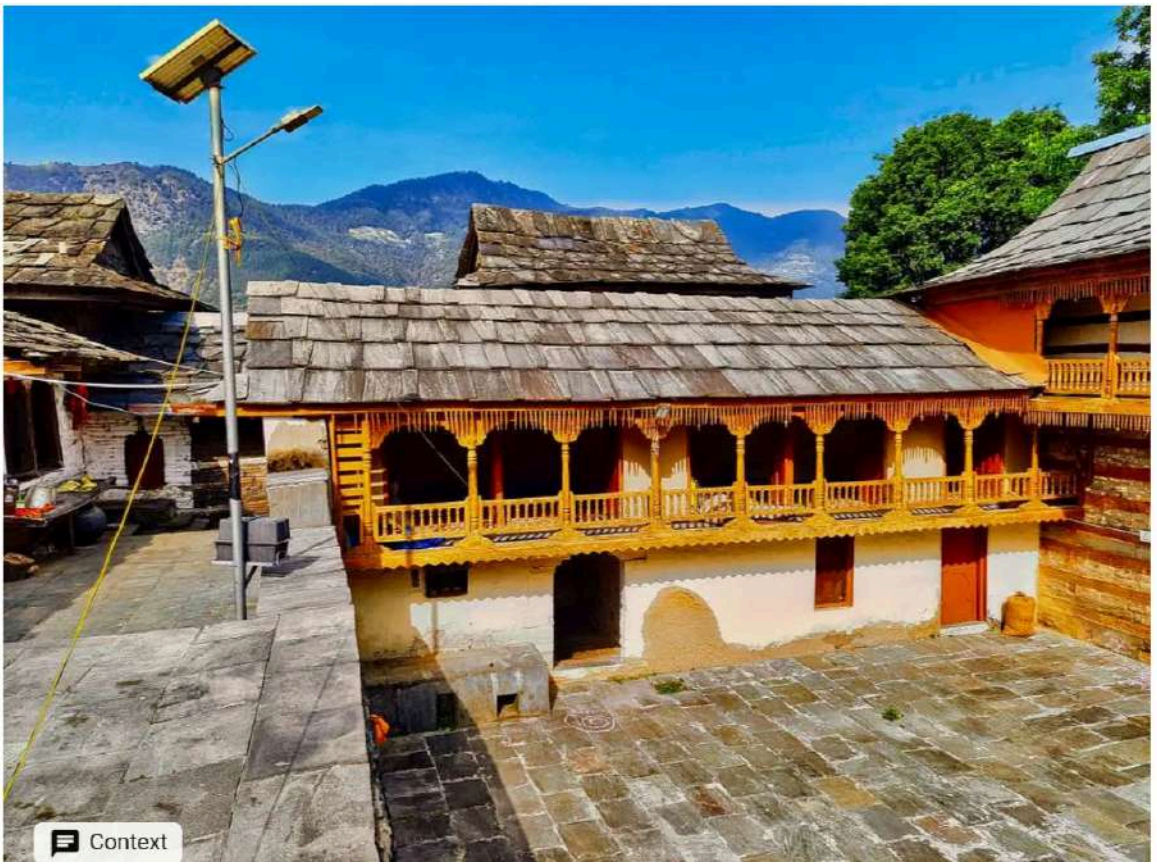
Photos






Context

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Videos

5000 years old village…Nirmand (12 min):

https://youtu.be/1t6DAdYyQCU?si=t0_mNAc8tFmpUnDD

Nirmand…where Lord Parashuram is in a state of Samadhi (10 min):

https://youtu.be/1t6DAdYyQCU?si=t0_mNAc8tFmpUnDD

Parashuram temple mandir, Himachal Pradesh..Renuka temple…etc (14 min):

https://youtu.be/yLknu3o44a4?si=uomkIkHnwiPtFSCc

Early temples of Himachal …Prasar Bharati archives (23 min):

https://youtu.be/udTAu63lD6Q?si=Kki1XTo-N1JYpoD0

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Note: At the end of this ebook, two pages are included (see below), giving (I) Author info, and (ii) a master link and QR code to download all my Technical (viz. Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering) ebooks plus Spiritual ebooks, stored in archive.org.

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About the Author

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar is a Mechanical Engineer with specialization in Cryogenics. He obtained his B. E. In Mechanical Engineering from Karnataka Regional Engg College, (Now NITK), Surathkal, India and M.Sc. in Cryogenics from the University of Southampton, U.K., and Ph.D. from the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore.

He has worked in prestigious organizations such as BARC, Bombay and Centre for Advanced Technology (CAT), Indore,as Head of Cryogenics Dept and contributed to the design of cryogenic systems, including the Thermovac chamber for ISRO, Bangalore.

He was also a visiting fellow at Superconducting Super Collider Project, at Texas, USA.

He has also served as Professor, Head of Department, and Principal in reputed engineering institutions.

Dr. Thirumaleshwar has authored a large number of FREE ebooks on Engineering subjects such as Thermodynamics, Heat Transfer, and Cryogenic Engineering, which are useful for students and teachers.

Driven by a deep interest in India's spiritual heritage, he has also authored many FREE ebooks on Temples, Saints, Gurus, and Vedic topics, with the aim of preserving and spreading this knowledge to future generations.

All his ebooks are available for free download at Archive.org.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
May 31, 2026

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